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TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION KUWAIT JULY 5-7: IRAQ; TERROR

1. SUMMARY: Isolated calls for Arabs to take responsibility for combating terror and religious extremism have been drowned out in a flood of conspiracy theories that allege US and Israeli roles in supporting Al-Zarqawi, rigging Saddam's trial, and torturing detainees. Dr. Sami Naser Khalifa wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'm (7/5): "We are fed up with American interference in Iraqi affairs. We are fed up with the untruths that only serve the interests of foreigners. It is time we ask them to leave our countries." END SUMMARY.

2. "Locate The Beneficiary"

Saleh Al-Shayji wrote in independent Al-Anba (7/5): "Israel is the only beneficiary of terrorist operations in Iraq. Due to Israel's fear that America and Iraq may forge a relationship whereby America would forgo Israel's services in the Middle East, Israel sought to inflame the situation in Iraq by enlisting Al-Qaeda and Al-Zarqawi as terrorists. America's failure in nation-building is a success for Israel and a massive let-down for Iraq. Sabotaging Iraq's march toward stability is Israel's doing."

3. "More Important Than Saddam"

Sami Abdel Latif Al-Nisif wrote in independent Al-Anba (7/5): "We as Arabs must hold accountable the culture and the philosophy which created Saddam. We have to hold accountable every politician and member of the intelligentsia who contributed to creating that monster. The mechanism which created Saddam is still capable of creating tens like him unless it is stopped."

4. "Happiness Marred By Doubts"

Dr. Sami Naser Khalifa wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'm (7/5): "It is very comforting for the Iraqis in particular to see the dictator Saddam Hussein facing his inevitable fate. However, it is odd that transparency was lacking at the court proceedings, especially since Saddam's trial represents much to millions of Iraqis and Iranians, even Kuwaitis. In comparison, more publicity and tedious detailed coverage was given to former President Clinton's affair with a White House intern. Why are the Americans trying to portray Saddam as 'innocent' until proven guilty? The proceedings at this 'trial of the century' demonstrate that the American administration is fully interfering in this process for the express purpose of winning more votes for President Bush. We are fed up with American interference in Iraqi affairs. We are fed up with the untruths that only serve the interests of foreigners. It is time we ask them to leave our countries."

5. "America's Mistake"

Ghassan Al-Otaibi wrote in independent Al-Qabas (7/5): "The United States committed many mistakes when it liberated Iraq from the tyrant Saddam. Unfortunately, the U.S. is still stubbornly making mistakes, which cause much embarrassment to her allies, especially the countries of the region. The latest in a series of mistakes was the handing over of President Saddam Hussein to the Iraqi interim government to be put on trial, despite the administration's awareness that the interim government was illegitimate, lacked jurisdiction, was not elected by the people and therefore lacked credibility."

6. "The Real War On Terrorism"

Hamad Al-Mirri wrote in independent Al-Watan (7/6): "Despite the American government's claim that Al-Qaeda's Al-Zarqawi is to blame for the terrorist operations plaguing Iraq, the American forces and their intelligence services have been unable to apprehend or kill him, despite having succeeded in flushing Saddam Hussein out of his hole in the ground. Since the American military and its intelligence services are better than their Saudi counterparts, why were the Saudis able to inflict heavy losses upon the terrorist infrastructure on Saudi soil, whereas the U.S., with its mighty army, has failed to do the same in Iraq? Perhaps the war being led by Saudi Arabia against terrorism is a real one, whereas that being led by the U.S. is merely one of interests."

7. "Palestine's Abu Ghraib"

Ammar Taqi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'm (7/6): "The Americans and the Israelis have become experts at committing horrific crimes against detainees. Palestinian and Iraqi detainees' pictures of suffering and torture at the hands of Americans and Israelis go hand in hand. The brutal acts inflicted by the Americans on the Abu Ghraib detainees have had their share of press coverage. Yet more horrific acts occur at tens of Israeli

detention facilities, and barely receive any media attention. How long will the suffering of thousands of Palestinians in Israeli prisons continue because of Arab silence?"

18. "Miscellaneous"

Abdul Muhsin Jamal wrote in independent Al Qabas (7/7): "The fact that some members of the Senate have submitted a request to the U.N. that it supervise the American elections for fear that the Republican Party may manipulate the presidential elections actually says that the US suffers from internal political struggles that have reached a level of mistrust in the electoral process there. The question which now remains is: What is the reaction of the American voters? Will there actually be a day when we'll see international observers supervising American elections as occurs in all third world countries nowadays?"

Jones